Special Educational Needs Team

London Borough of Hounslow

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**Social Care Assessor Advice**

**Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Needs under the Children and Families Act 2014**

This relates to a request for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for the following child or young person:

**Child or Young Person’s Name:**

**Date of birth:**

**SECTION 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Has there been a social care assessment of this child and/or their family?** | Early Help | |  |
| Social Work Assessment | |  |
| Care Act Assessment | |  |
| **Does the child or young person have a current care plan?** | Early Help | |  |
| Child in Need | |  |
| Child Protection | |  |
| Looked After Child | |  |
| Pathway Plan (Care Leaver) | |  |
| Short Breaks | |  |
| Care and Support | |  |
| Transition Plan (14 – 18 yrs) | |  |
| **Is there a worker in social care or social work team?** | **Y/N** | **Name:** | **Team:** |
| **Social Care contact details:** | **Phone number:**  **Email:** | | |
| **Have you passed this advice request to them and explained the deadline for the assessment?** | | | **Y/N** |

If there is no current social care involvement, please go to SECTION 2

**SECTION 2 – to be completed by social care assessor**

From the information already provided, an initial contact with the child or young person and their family, and conversations with professionals involved, please could you state whether:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contact with family** | | | |
| Name/s & relationship to child: |  | Date/s |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **You have referred the child or young person or their parent/carer for an assessment of their social care needs** | |
| Please provide reasons and further details including contact details, if applicable | Brief reasons:  What is their main need? |
| Please confirm that this form has been sent with your referral and the team are aware of the statutory deadline for advice on page 1 | Y/N |

Or

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **You have referred the child or young person and/or their parent/carer to another agency for an assessment e.g. a mental health service, adoption service** | |
| Please state to whom you have referred and provide reasons and further details including contact details, if applicable | Brief reasons: What is their main need? |
| Please confirm that this form has been sent with your referral the service is aware of the statutory deadline for advice on page 1 | Y/N |

Or

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **The child or young person and/or their parent/carer do not require a referral to statutory agencies for a care assessment - needs will be met by family, community resources, or targeted services listed on the Hounslow Local Offer** | |
| Please comment briefly on this child or young person’s access to activities outside school, barriers or risks that they face, and advice regarding types of service that may be appropriate to meet needs.  *See checklist and guidance below.* | **Brief Summary of discussion**:  **Social Care Needs**:  **Outcomes**:  **Social Care recommendations**: |

Name of person completing the form: Date:

1. Brief check about your understanding of the child’s special educational needs or disability
2. Who does the child live with, who is the main carer, wider family structure and circles of support: challenges presented by having a child with SEN and/or a disability
3. Activities the child attends compared with typical children of the same age (sport, after school activities, weekends activities, youth clubs, church, holiday schemes etc.): specific challenges to accessing leisure activities presented by the child’s SEN and/or disability
4. Age-related challenges: friendships, puberty/sexual development, gaming, drugs, alcohol, social media, bullying
5. Non-statutory support currently received or applied for e.g. parenting classes, portage, voluntary sector services, targeted youth support (obtain contact names and brief details)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Checklist** | **Y/N** |
| 1. Can the child access universal/mainstream services without additional support? |  |
| 1. Are the child’s social & care needs fully met by their family and wider support network? |  |
| 1. Do parents need some additional help and advice e.g. sign-posting to appropriate targeted services on the Local Offer? |  |
| 1. Do parents or child/young person need a referral to a statutory service outside social care? |  |
| 1. Do parents or child/young person need a referral for a social care assessment and/or a carers’ assessment? |  |
| 1. Is there a potential safeguarding issue that needs immediate action? |  |

**Social Care Advice: General Guidance**

**General**

Statutory advice from social care professionals shouldcontain the following 3 components:

1. Care needs

Care needs as these relate to the child or young person’s special educational needs, but also information concerning their education and/or health needs and their care needs in relation to preparation for adulthood

1. Desired outcomes

These should be forward-looking and SMART. For example,

‘*Within the next 2 years, X will be willing to take part in a leisure activity at least once per month without his mother.’*

*‘By September 2020, X will be able to travel safely and unaccompanied on public transport to and from his grandparents’ house.’*

*‘Over the next 3 years, X will be neat and clean when he arrives at college and will cooperate with his carer when dressing and washing each morning’’*

1. Care provision that may be required to meet identified needs and achieve desired outcomes

**Not all social care reports received will be shared with other agencies/providers or the family but please make a note if any information is sensitive and confidential, or parents have asked that it is not shared.**

**If you are unable to meet the statutory deadline on page 1 please contact the SEN Case Officer or** [**SEN@hounslow.gov.uk**](mailto:SEN@hounslow.gov.uk) **as soon as possible.**

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SEN Staff will send you the form including the child or young person’s details and statutory deadline (6 weeks from request email).

They will attach the views of the parent/carer, child or young person, if available, and an involvement form (showing who is already working with the child or young person).

If there is information available from the education provider and/or health services that could help you to understand the child’s care needs, these will also be included.

* **Person-centred approach:** tools and guidance are available on the Hounslow Local Offer. We expect to see evidence that professionals are fully reflecting the child or young person’s views, wishes and goals in their statutory advice
* **Eligibility thresholds:** these **should not** determine the content of your advice. For example, provision in Section H2 may include recommendations about a **universal service** or a service listed on the **Hounslow Local Offer**
* **Family leadership**: your input should empower families and education providers to build on the child or young person’s strengths and interests, and encourage them to participate in appropriate out-of-school clubs and activities
* **Holistic:** please identify all care needs relating to the child’s SEN or disability, whether they meet the threshold for social care provision or not e.g. summarise all Care Act assessment **outcomes, wellbeing measures and risks**
* **Forward-looking**: your advice should not just reflect immediate needs or risks. Pease consider all 4 Preparation for Adulthood categories below and the barriers that the child or young person may face as an adult. This approach is relevant at all ages. The 4 categories are:
  + Independence (e.g. self-care, making choices, travel)
  + Participation in the Community (e.g. leisure, events, voting, having views heard)
  + Health (exercise, diet, access to healthcare services, dentistry, self-medication)
  + Pathways to Employment (skills, strengths, aspirations, support needed to work)
* Please contact the SEN Case Officer if you would like **additional information**.
* Attempt at least **1 contact with the parent/carer and the child or young person**.
* Contact other **professionals** listed on the involvement form, as necessary.
* Weigh up the information and decide if a **statutory care assessment** is required, if they require a **referral to another team**, or if the family can be **sign-posted** to universal or other services to meet their care needs.
* Helpful advice may include the type of activity that parents may wish to search for the Local Offer website which suits the abilities and interests of the child or young person or suggested parenting courses, suggested websites or voluntary sector organisations to contact.